

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-10, 14-19, 23-28, and 32-36 are pending in this application. Claims 25-27, 35, and 36 were objected to for informalities. Claims 28 and 32-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 16, 17, 19, 25, 26, 28, 34, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,108,492 to Miyachi. Claims 5, 6, 9, 14, 15, 18, 23, 24, 27, 32, 33, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Miyachi in view of U.S. patent 5,414,494 to Aikens et al. (herein "Aikens").

Addressing first the objection to claims 25-27, 35, and 36, that objection is traversed by the present response.

Each of claims 25 and 26 is amended by the present response to now properly be directed to a "method". Further, claim 35 is now properly directed to a "computer program product", and now properly depends from claim 34.

The presently submitted amendments to claims 25, 26, and 35 are believed to address the objections thereto.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 28 and 32-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Claim 28 is amended by the present response to no longer refer to "the target application" at line 15, but now instead refers to "the first and second computer codes", which has clear antecedent support. That amendment is believed to address the rejection of claims 28 and 32-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Addressing now the prior art rejections based on Miyachi, and further in view of Aikens, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Applicants respectfully submit the outstanding rejection is not fully considering the claimed features and is misconstruing the teachings in Miyachi relative to the claimed features.

The claims are directed to a system, method, and computer program product that allows monitoring of how a user selects operations on an operation panel of an image forming device. That is, an image forming device includes an operation panel that has plural operations to be selected by a user. Those operations, as non-limiting examples, relate to selection of a number of copies, copy conditions, paper size selection, etc. An operation in the claimed invention is to monitor the selection of those operations by a user. That is, the claims are directed to monitoring when a user selects, e.g., a paper size operation, when the user selects a copy number operation, etc. One objective of the present invention is to monitor such data so that a user's usage of an operation panel can be evaluated, so that the setup, layout, control, etc. of an operation panel of an image forming device can be improved. The claimed features are believed to be neither taught nor suggested by the applied art.

Miyachi, in contrast to the claimed features, is merely directed to being able to store status conditions of a multifunction device. However, at no section does Miyachi disclose monitoring the selecting of a plurality of operations of an operation panel by a user. That is, Miyachi does not disclose or suggest any monitoring of buttons on an operation panel of an image forming device that a user selects. The basis for the outstanding rejection apparently does not fully consider that claim limitation or misconstrues the teachings in Miyachi with respect to that claimed feature.

The outstanding rejection cites Miyachi to disclose an operation panel at column 5, lines 27-32, and to disclose monitoring the selecting of the plurality of operations on the operation panel at column 5, lines 57-65. However, applicants respectfully submit those disclosures in Miyachi do not correspond to the claimed features.

At column 5, lines 27-30 Miyachi does disclose that the multifunction peripheral includes a user input device 285 with button switches. However, the monitoring referred to at column 5, lines 57-65 in Miyachi is not directed to monitoring selections of those button switches. More specifically, at column 5, lines 57-65 Miyachi discloses monitoring the conditions of the multifunction peripheral and updating a status information table such as Table 1 shown in columns 6-7. However at no point does Miyachi disclose or suggest monitoring which button switches are selected by a user. In fact, in reviewing Table 1 in Miyachi all the status information stored therein is directed to different status indications of the device itself, but is not directed to which selections on an operation panel a user selects. Miyachi merely discloses monitoring different status conditions of the device, but does not disclose or suggest monitoring which buttons on an operation panel a user selects.

As noted above, one objective in the claimed invention is to monitor a user's selections of operations on an operation panel of an image forming device so that such data can be reviewed and the operation panel can be improved. Miyachi is not directed to any type of similar device.


In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written distinguish over Miyachi.

Moreover, no teachings in Aikens were cited with respect to the above-noted features, nor are any teachings in Aikens believed to cure the deficiencies of Miyachi.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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